



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700 County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 1337

Delegate Susie

Proctor

(Judiciary Committee)

Inmate Training and Job Act of 2021

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB 1337 – Inmate Training and Job Act of 2021 – This bill establishes the Inmate Training and Job Pilot Program at certain institutions of postsecondary education to provide educational and vocational training opportunities for returning citizens in the 9 months preceding the person's date of release; requiring the Pilot Program to be administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the governing entity of each institution; requiring the Governor to include certain appropriations for the Pilot Program in the annual budget bills for fiscal years 2023-2026; etc. The bill also has reporting requirements for the institutions to the Commission, Governor and General Assembly detailing the number of program participants, course work and any degrees, certificates and/or licenses.

Since 2005, Prince George's County has focused efforts on returning citizens and assisting them to successfully transition back into society. Working in collaboration across several agencies, the County created a workgroup to form a "One-Stop Shop" for returning citizens. The One-Stop Shop consisted of wrap around services such as probation, healthcare, housing and working with the MVA to obtain identification for returning citizens. This legislation will assist returning citizens prior to their release, gain access to our institutions of higher learning in pursuit of life-changing course work. This course work can eventually lead the program participants toward a degree, licensing and/or certification in a sought-after industry-recognized discipline.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS HB 1337** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC

On behalf of Prince George's County Council

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772